

HB 1822 - DIGEST

Finds that hunters and other outdoor sports enthusiasts play a critical role in wildlife conservation efforts and the sound stewardship of the state's wildlife resources. However, the use of shotgun shells that contain lead poses a threat to the very habitat on which many wildlife species depend, including game species. The lead in the shot is a toxic material that, when dispersed across a habitat, can contaminate the state's waters and poison its wildlife.

Finds that the role of the hunting community in conservation should continue to be supported and encouraged without diminishing hunting opportunities. To support this goal, the use of the most toxic substances should gradually be phased out of use on Washington's state-owned lands.

Provides that, beginning January 1, 2006, it is unlawful to possess or use toxic shot on any land owned by the state that is located in department game management units four, five, or six.

Provides that, beginning January 1, 2007, it is unlawful to possess or use toxic shot on any land owned by the state that is located in department game management units one, two, or three.

Provides that, beginning January 1, 2008, it is unlawful to use toxic shot when hunting with a license issued by the department under chapter 77.32 RCW.

Declares that a violation of this act is a natural resources infraction under chapter 7.84 RCW.